

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION
GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

SLEDGE TELEPHONE CO., INC.
TC-100-0006-00

SECTION IV
6th Revised Sheet 14
Cancels 5th Revised Sheet 14

SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

SERVICE CHARGES

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(T)

General

The Company, as part of its obligations as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, offers a low-income assistance program. This program, Lifeline Assistance, is offered under the terms and conditions provided below:

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Lifeline Assistance

A. General

Lifeline Assistance is a retail service offering available to qualifying low-income subscribers, as provided for below. Lifeline Assistance enables eligible subscribers to pay reduced charges for the following package of services: voice-grade access to the public switched network; local usage; dual-tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent; access to emergency services; access to operator services; access to interexchange service; access to directory assistance; and toll blocking. An eligible customer receives credit for the Low-Income Assistance Program pursuant to FCC Order 12-11 and MPSC Docket 2007-AD-487.

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B. Regulations

1. Unless other eligibility requirements are established by the Commission, Lifeline Assistance is available to all residential subscribers who participate in one of the following programs:

- a) Medicaid,
- b) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps,
- c) Supplemental Security Income (SSI),
- d) Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA),
- e) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),
- f) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF),
- g) National Free Lunch Program Free Lunch Initiative (NFLP).

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Income-Based Criteria :

Household gross monthly income that does not exceed 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

2. Each subscriber to Lifeline Assistance must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that he/she receives benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraph B.1., above, and must, on the same document, agree to notify the Company if he/she ceases to participate in the program(s). The certification form shall conform to the requirements described herein, and shall be made available upon request to any subscriber. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications pursuant to FCC Order 12-11 in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.

(T)

Issue Date: 3/15/12
Effective Date: 4/15/12
Order Number:

Filed By: Robert O. Sledge, Jr., President
P. O. Box 68
Sunflower, Mississippi 38778

REPAIRED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION
GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

SLEDGE TELEPHONE CO., INC.
TC-100-0006-00

SECTION IV
5th Revised Sheet 15
Cancels 4th Revised Sheet 15

SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

SERVICE CHARGES

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Continued)

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Lifeline Assistance (Continued)

B. Regulations (Continued)

3. All applications for this service are subject to verifications with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program. The Company may request any additional documentation deemed necessary prior to providing Lifeline benefits such as an administrating agency's official designation of eligibility in a particular means-based program sub-paragraph B.1., above, and that the telephone subscriber is the financially responsible party for the qualifying member of his or her household, or that the eligible household member is the telephone subscriber's dependent pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service. (D)
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4. The Company will reconcile and confirm eligibility periodically pursuant to FCC Order 12-11. At least annually an FCC-compliant random survey of a statistically valid number of the Lifeline subscribers which request that each surveyed subscriber verify under penalty of perjury that they, or a member of their household continue to participate in one of the means-based programs approved herein for eligibility by the Commission and/or survey at least annually the entire Lifeline subscriber base requesting that each surveyed subscriber verify under penalty of perjury that they, or a member of their household continue to participate in one of the means-based programs established by the Commission as eligible for lifeline funding. Lifeline subscribers who are subsequently determined to be ineligible shall be notified of their ineligibility in writing by the Company and provided 60 days from the date of such notice to rectify or otherwise demonstrate their eligibility prior to the discontinuance of their Lifeline benefits. All unresolved disputes regarding Lifeline eligibility shall be brought to the attention of the Commission for resolution. (T)
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- 5.
6. A subscriber may elect at the time of subscription to Lifeline Assistance to receive toll blocking as part of Lifeline Assistance at no charge. "Toll Blocking" is a service that allows a subscriber to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's residence. Local service deposit requirements will be waived for customers who voluntarily receive Toll Limitation Service. (T)

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SECTION IV
1st Revised Sheet 15.1
Cancels Original Sheet 15.1

SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

SERVICE CHARGES

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Continued)

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Lifeline Assistance (Continued)

B. Regulations (Continued)

7. Lifeline Assistance will not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges, however, in the event toll charges are not paid within 10 days of the mailing of the Company bill, the Company will implement Toll Blocking immediately thereafter. In addition, the Company will not deny re-establishment of local service to customers who are eligible for Lifeline Assistance and have previously been disconnected for non-payment of toll charges. Lifeline Assistance will not be connected if an outstanding balance is owed by the customer for local service.
8. The Company may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate lifeline Assistance if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll blocking from the Company, where available. If toll blocking is unavailable, then the Company may charge a service deposit.
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10. Only one Lifeline service is available per residential household pursuant to FCC Order 12-11. A household is any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. A household may include related and unrelated persons. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. An adult is any person eighteen years or older. If an adult has no or minimal income, and lives with someone who provides financial support to him/her, both people shall be considered part of the same household. Children under the age of eighteen living with their parents or guardians are considered to be part of the same household as their parents or guardians. A household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers.
11. A Lifeline customer may subscribe to any local service offering available to other residential customers.
12. The PIC charge will not be billed to Lifeline customers who subscribe to toll blocking and do not presubscribe to a long distance carrier.

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SECTION IV
5th Revised Sheet 16
Cancels 4th Revised Sheet 16

SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

SERVICE CHARGES

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Continued)

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Lifeline Assistance (Continued)

C. Credits

1. The following credit* will apply for each customer eligible for Lifeline Assistance:

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Monthly Credit*

- a) Lifeline Credit^①

\$9.25 (I)

(C)

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2. The Company shall apply the baseline payments received by the administrator of the Federal Lifeline Assistance program to the qualifying customer's basic local exchange service rate, pursuant to FCC Order 12-11 and MPSC Docket 2007-AD-487.

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3. Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers shall first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges.

- * Credit amount will not exceed the total of the basic Residential Local Exchange and Subscriber Line Charge rate.

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- ① Rates are in compliance with FCC Order 12-11 and are effective on dates determined by the FCC under Order 12-11.

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REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

SLEDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY (SAC 280466)

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3017

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY